

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim(s) from which they depend.

Claims 1-8 have been amended to recite more clearly applicants' invention.

1. Claims 1-4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Guinda et al. U.S. Patent 6,283,301.

The presently claimed elastic connection terminal includes an elastic loop and an auxiliary part for stopping one end of a cable inserted into the terminal, wherein the auxiliary part is for being brought into contact with the back face of a support strip of an electric device and includes at least one attachment element for gripping a region of such a support strip, thereby joining with a conducting part of an electric device. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

The Office Action cites Guinda '301 as allegedly disclosing an elastic connection terminal having an auxiliary part 4 with

fixed stop pins 41a, 41b for limiting movement of elastic loop 3. Contrary to the Office Action, the shoulders shown on flange 2b of connecting part 2 do not engage the side walls of half shells 43a,43b (see Guinda '301, Figs. 1a and 3), as recited in applicants' claim 1 reciting "auxiliary part for being brought into contact with the back face of a support strip of an electrical device." Note that Guinda '301, Fig. 3, shows side wall 2b having cut-outs so that half shells 43a,43b pass therethrough, and thus are not for being brought into contact with wall 2b.

Also, applicants' claim 1 recites at least one attachment element for gripping a region of a support strip, thereby joining with a conducting part of an electric device. Thus, when the auxiliary part engages a conducting part, it communicates to the conducting part the thrust exerted on the auxiliary part when the cable is inserted. Guinda '301, Figs. 1a and 3 show that this is not possible with half shells 43a,43b and wall 2b.

Claim 3, depending from claim 1, is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1 explained herein. Also, the Office Action alleges that Guinda '301 allegedly discloses back wall 11 belonging to auxiliary part 4. Actually, Guinda '301, Fig. 1b,

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shows back wall 1 is merely a cover, and Fig. 2 does not show the auxiliary part comprising a back wall, wherein the guide panels are for abutting a support strip of an electrical device together with such a back wall to define an individual compartment for each cable, each compartment being electrically isolated from an adjacent compartment, as recited in applicants' claim 3.

For the foregoing reasons, Guinda '301 fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. And, there is no disclosure or teaching in Guinda '301 that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2-8, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

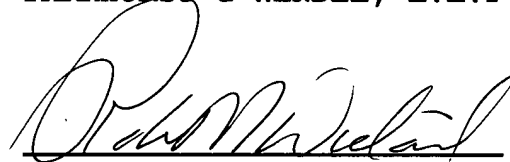
All claims 1-8 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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